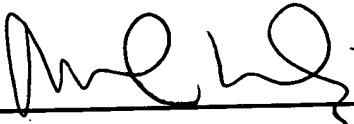# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A weak leader election approach to determine which of a number of redundant nodes is the leader node is disclosed. The redundant nodes exchange information particular to them, such as age information. Based on the information received from the other nodes, each node determines whether it is the leader. Where the information is age information, a criteria that can be used to make this determination is that the oldest node is the leader. Each redundant node knows only whether it is the leader node. Redundant nodes that are not the leader do not know which node is the leader node.

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I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on <u>Aug 17, 2000</u>, by <u>Michael Dryja</u>, and having "express mail" mailing label no. <u>EK994740855US</u>.

Signature of <u>Michael Dryja</u>